

U.S. Application No. 10/089,962
Reply to Office Action dated June 7, 2005

PATENT
450101-03388

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10-15, 17-20, and 22-26 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-15, 18-20, and 22-26 are independent. Claims 10-14 and 22-26 are allowed. Claims 1, 6-8, 14-15, 17-20, and 25-26 are hereby amended. Claims 2, 5, 9, 16, and 21 are hereby canceled. Claims 25 and 26, which were allowed, are amended to make cosmetic changes therein merely to improve the form of the claims. No substantive changes have been made to claims 25 and 26. No new matter has been introduced. Support for these amendments is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at paragraphs [0017], [0023], [0162], and [0163] of published application number 20030031461, as numbered by the PTO.

Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Examiner is thanked for noting the allowance of claims 10-14 and 22-26.

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II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,956,090 to Yamauchi (hereinafter, merely "Yamauchi").

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

"... data-inserting means for inserting a time code of the source video signal into the destination video signal,

where the source time code and frame numbers of said source video signal are stored in a user area of Vertical Interval Time Code (VITC) data in the destination video signal." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Yamauchi relates to a method for converting a video signal from one television standard to another, while also converting the time codes from the source to the destination video. Yamauchi is not directed to storing the original source (e.g. 24-frame rate) time codes, so as to remain unchanged if the destination (e.g. 30-frame rate) time codes are modified.

The instant invention is directed with this problem in the prior art in mind, as stated in paragraphs [0162] to [0164]: "The invention is characterized in that not only a 30-frame rate time code, but also a 24-frame rate time code [is] added... in order to generate a 30-frame rate video signal ..." (emphasis added), and "This makes it possible to transmit the original time code data of 24-frame rate, along with the video data of 30-frame rate. Additionally, the original time code is not eliminated..." (emphasis added). This information is stored in a novel and non-obvious way in the user bit area of the VITC. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Yamauchi that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

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As pointed out by the Examiner, Yamauchi does state in col. 3, lines 1-6 that "the bit stream may include various other binary-encoded information, such as the field mark, drop-frame flag, and cyclic redundancy check code specified in the SMPTE standard." However, this side remark is too vague and too broad to teach someone skilled in the art the specific storage feature specified in claim 1, namely "where the source time code and frame numbers of said source video signal are stored in a user area of Vertical Interval Time Code (VITC) data in the destination video signal." Nothing in Yamauchi states or teaches that the original 24-frame rate time code should be stored within the user bit area of the VITC code in the destination 30-frame rate video signal, such that the original 24-frame rate time code is preserved no matter the editing performed on the destination signal.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Yamauchi.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 6, 15, and 18 are also believed to be patentable.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 19, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious in view of Yamauchi.

The Examiner's argument for rejecting claim 7 is inapposite. Claim 7 calls for storing the original 24-frame rate time code in the destination video signal (see paragraphs [0162] to [0163] in the specification and the detailed argument given for claim 1 above).

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For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 7, amended independent claims 8, 9, 19, and 20 are also believed to be unobvious.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent 7, 8, 9, 19, and 20 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims (amended claims 3, 4, and 17) are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

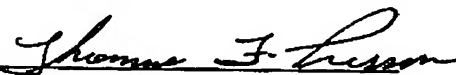
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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